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27 September 1961

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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South Korea: The uneasy stability of South Korea's ruling Supreme Council for National Reconstruction (SCNR) is threatened by a factional struggle between the security boss, Colonel Kim Chong-pil, and SCNR Vice Chairman Maj. Gen. Yi Chu-il, who is a member of an important faction.

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DAILY BRIEF

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### Factional Struggle in South Korean Regime

[Following the purge of coup front-man Lieutenant General Chang To-yong in July, factional alignments in the military junta hardened into a majority faction led by security boss Colonel Kim Chong-pil and a minority group headed by Major Generals Yi Chu-il and Kim Tong-ha. The majority group, which generally advocates extreme measures and extended military rule, controls an estimated 15 seats in the 28-member ruling Supreme Council for National Reconstruction (SCNR). Lieutenant General Pak Chong-hui, chairman of the SCNR, on various occasions has indicated that he desired to reduce the influence of this more extremist clique.]

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[Pak on 22 September apparently moved to equalize factional interests by shifting Yi to the influential position of vice chairman of the SCNR and making him concurrently chairman of the Illicit Wealth Committee. Co-minority leader Kim Tong-ha was given the chairmanship of the influential Finance and Economy Subcommittee, Yi's former position. Faced with these moves which could portend an eclipse of his radical faction, Kim Chong-pil is pressing Pak Chong-hui to purge Yi. Kim reportedly desires to oust Yi's group in the same manner he purged Chang To-yong and his supporters.]

[In the impending struggle Pak appears to stand above the factional alignments. He has had the support of the radical majority faction and is cemented to Kim by family ties. In the minority group are some of his oldest and closest associates, including Yi Chu-il. These relationships will aid Pak to avoid a showdown which could undermine the stability of the regime. So far he reportedly has been able to restrain Kim from moving against Yi. However, should a showdown develop, a victory for Kim's faction probably would commit Pak to radical policies.]

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